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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

RI/AN

NO.

SC/ENCL. to  
E/ASA-5215

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

	TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
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## Recovery Report on #6

On 1 September 1958, a twenty-five man team (#6) which had been tasked to recover of 1951 as one of the twenty-five man teams by the HUSKIE command of 40th was assigned for inspection purposes.

Present at the unearthing of the cache were [redacted] of 302 and a team of U. S. Military personnel consisting of Lt. Kenneth Lambert and fifteen enlisted men of the 11th Engineer Company.

### Location of the Cache Site

Cache folder #6 was taken to the site up [redacted] to test its utility. It was determined first after locating the general area of the cache, it took only several minutes to discover the exact location. Only rough pointing and approximate direction were required. [redacted] did not even the site location to this.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that in addition to spacing distances measured from various ground points to the cache location, that also a distance from these points to the location be shown.

### Description of Cache Site

A new logging road of gravel had been put in only fifteen feet from this cache. At the site itself by only a hasty inspection it could be determined that a hole had been dug there at one time. The general outline of the hole was visible because the surrounding had sunk in and was now below the normal level of the ground. Exposed earth which had been thrown in the vicinity of the hole and the cache was covered up and still visible. No grass had grown over the cache site. It is estimated that the ground at the top of the cache site was about 10 ft above water level.

### Equipment Employed

[redacted] and [redacted] placed Engineer team at their home base, St. John's, and moved with team to the caching site. The transportation consisted of a total of two radio 1/4 ton trucks with trailers, three 2 1/2 ton trucks with trailers and one 1/4 ton truck with trailer.

Team moved to the cache site and pulled vehicles into the area to simulate a normal military field operation. Trucks were placed around the area and two men began digging at the cache and three other men began digging a pseudo-type trench in the vicinity of one cache site for dummy purposes. When the top of the cache was uncovered, a pyramidal tent was placed over the cache site and digging continued until all boxes were in a position to be lifted out of the hole. A two-and-a-half ton truck was backed up to the tent entrance and the doorflaps of the tent entrance were tied to the truck sides to serve as a

The boxes were loaded from the hole into the truck. While the loading was in progress an inspection of the perimeter was made continuously to insure that no indigenous personnel were about. From the roads on the perimeter it was impossible to see the activities of loading due to the dense overgrowth in the area. As far as can be determined, the entire process was carried out with the best possible security.

After the boxes from the cache were loaded, the truck was pulled away from the hole. The tent remained up until morning when the hole was filled in completely, tamped and mounded and the tent then struck when the remainder of the equipment struck in preparation to moving out of the area.

#### Unearthing

Digging began in the suspect spot and continued until tin cans and rubbish were found which was close to the surface. The top layer of boxes were uncovered within inches from the ground surface. Since it was undetermined how deep the top of one hundred blasting caps was located in the cache digging was done by shovel digging without the use of picks. The soil was a gummy clay and was increasingly gummy and wet as digging progressed until when the bottom of the hole was uncovered there were two to three inches of water at the bottom. It was not rained in this area for at least seven days and it was gummy and sticky (the unearthing took place.)

As the individual boxes were taken out of the hole, it was noted that the bottoms of the boxes were wet and the roofing paper covers on the outside were torn and ripped off easily in handling. In some instances, water poured out of the boxes when lifted into the truck. In some instances the code letters on the outside of boxes which indicated contents were not visible.

#### Content of Boxes in Hole

All boxes were placed into one hole. There was a total of twenty-six individually wrapped boxes. Boxes were stacked in layers. The dimensions of the hole were approximately 4 x 4 x 6 feet. There was no box count on the outside of the cache folder; therefore, it could not be easily determined how many boxes were unearthed without further digging. Since code markings on the boxes were obliterated, also not shown in the cache folder, it was impossible to determine where the blasting caps were located. The mail-bags were sought for and when found was handled as blasting caps and put in the rear compartment of the truck carrying the equipment. The remainder of the boxes were thrown in the back of the truck. When unwrapping began, it was found that the package handled as blasting caps turned out to be a mail-bag and the caps weren't discovered until near the end of the entire unearthing. The boxes when they were found in a row packed with three hundred blasting caps.

#### Unearthing

The contents were moved to Lafer Ordnance Depot. Since the condition of the boxes of explosive materials was undetermined as to its condition until the boxes had to be stored in the demolition area and guarded until the morning when the USIA bomb disposal officer could inspect the items.

prior to placing them back into ordnance storage. Explosive items became more vulnerable by being unstable when exposed to weather and consequent corrosion. Therefore, it was possible that some of the munitions would have to be exploded and disposed.

In 10 September 1953 the cache boxes were opened and inspected at Lafor. Present at the inspection were [redacted] and [redacted] representatives, and Capt. Schneider, the USAF bomb disposal officer and two members of his team.

Boxes were individually opened and all items carefully inspected for condition. Saxator photographed items for the record.

The following are recommendations for future caching operations:

1. Cache folders:

- a. That entries in addition to linear measurements from ground points to the cache location be shown where possible.
- b. That the total number of boxes composing the cache be shown in the cache inventory.
- c. That the coding system of letters on individual boxes be shown on the inventory to indicate box contents in the cache inventory.

2. Preparation of boxes for caching:

- a. That no nails of any sort be used to affix outside wrapping. It was found that this alone was the cause of a great number of box leakages. In addition, it damages items in the box since nails penetrate to the equipment. It is also dangerous because nails were found to have penetrated some ammunition boxes.
- b. That more care be taken in wrapping individual items. Some wrappings were found to be done in careless manner hence water seepage resulted.
- c. That a more permanent system of codeword rings be used to designate box contents. Various bands of color around the entire box for example.
- d. It is a difficult task to open the boxes with proper tools. Therefore, it would be extremely difficult to open them without the proper tools. It is recommended that on the very top of a large cache, tools to open the boxes be separately wrapped and easily identified.

- e. That blasting caps be packaged separately and placed in a standard location within the cache makeup. Not near the surface where there is a possibility of striking them with a pick or shovel but perhaps in one corner or in the middle of the cache framed in wood supports. They should be easily recognized as caps and easily discovered to enable their handling as caps should be handled in a safe manner. By all means they should not be placed with other explosive material such as G-3 or prime cord.
  - f. That medical kits be placed into cans and sealed and not only wrapped in foil and roofing material.
  - g. That individual medical items within the kit be wrapped and wax or seal peel dipped.
  - h. That where possible all stages of wrappings of individual items be dipped either in the seal peel or wax.
3. Preparation of hole prior to placing of items:
- a. That more than eighteen inches of earth are allowed to cover the top of the cache.
  - b. If area selected is in a high water level, that hole not be dug too deep but rather more holes be dug to take cache to avoid striking water seepage.
  - c. That various sizes of gravel be placed at the bottom of the hole and on top of the gravel a wooden duckboard or chair be lowered on top of the gravel on which the bottom boxes rest to allow water drainage instead of water sitting at the bottom of the hole. It is recommended that the gravel layer be at least one foot thick.
4. Cache make up:
- a. That cache inventory be accurate as to contents, one M1 and two Lammatic can pumps were not in the cache as listed.
  - b. That the proper blasting caps be used in the cache makeup. No. 8 commercial caps will not always detonate a military explosive such as G-3. A number of misfires will result or low order explosions. No. 8 military cap is a sure fire and should be the standard item to be cached.

Inspection Results

The following are the results of inspection of the items of Cache #6:

Medical Kit

The medical kit was wrapped in heavy wrapping tar paper, bound together with the wrapping, water ran out of the kit continuously. Under the wrapping of tin foil was a bag which had rotted away completely. When the bag was separated, the contents of the kit contained the medical items (all having been waterlogged and rotted away). Contents spilled out. The contents of the kit were not identifiable. Bandages, gauze and other items were soaked and rotted. Medical kit was considered 100% ineffective. This was found among the contents.

Two Boxes of C-3 (72 lbs.)

entire wrapping of roofing tar paper which was fastened to the box by several galvanized roofing nails. The wooden box was wet and the inside wrapping of tar paper and cardboard were soggy wet and was easily peeled away. Two boxes of commercially wrapped C-3 were encountered which consisted of brown boxes wax dipped. These were still sealed and in excellent condition except in several places where the nails used to affix the outside tar paper had penetrated the outside box and the wax dipped box and penetrated into the C-3. Only around the nail holes did moisture get to the explosive. Where the nails were imbedded in the C-3, aging of brown corrosion from the nail was evident in the explosive. Given time it is believed that deterioration of the explosive would have been accelerated and consequently becoming more hazardous in handling due to a chemical change in its natural stability. All C-3 was at inspection 100% effective.

One Box of Demolition Apperatus Equipment

Outside wrapper of tar paper was soggy and peeled off easily. The joints of the wooden box were sealed with tar. Worms were found between the outside wrapper and the wooden box. Inside of the wooden box the cardboard box and metal foil wrapping was soggy and rotten. The contents were separately wrapped in their original commercial wrappings with the following results:

- a. Fuse wrappers - excellent condition, all still on metal
- b. Fuse lighters - original all paper wrappings wet but all fuses in good condition, no corrosion evident. One tested, worked properly.
- c. Time delay pencils - original box dry. No corrosion evident. One fuse tested, rated as 12 to 14 minutes per 50 to 70° temperature took 17 minutes to detonate. (There is a variance of time due to temperature variation which exceeds the rated rate. Therefore, the time of the tested fuse can be considered normal.)
- d. Friction tape - inside original boxes dry. Tape in good condition.
- e. Box sealing compound - can beginning to rust but contents in good condition.
- f. Safety fuse - fuse was dry - black powder train not affected by moisture as far as visible. A test of fourteen inches of fuse was made and it burned in 62 seconds, which is approximately normal for this type of fuse.



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Fuzes From Fragmentation Grenades (100)

All boxes were wet through to the inside fiber containers holding the individual grenades. Fiber containers were in various degrees of wetness. The containers fell apart to the touch. Others were not at all affected by moisture. Grenades were in various stages of condition from the apparent excellent state to the worst which showed rust on the serrated case iron body of the grenade. The pot metal of which the fuse part is made wasn't affected at all by rust or corrosion. All grenades weren't removed from the fiber containers but by spot inspection. It is estimated that approximately twenty-five showed some signs of rust. Since the fragmentation grenade has a black powder train in the fuse and black powder being extremely hygroscopic, it is probable that some of the grenades would not fire, or would fire at a delayed rate.

One box Miscellaneous - Contents

12 per cent acid coated aluminum in wooden box which was sealed  
with wax. Since wrapping of the foil seal was rotten. Individual  
items were in the following condition:

- a. Binoculars - parts of binocular outside wrappings and leather edges rotted.  
Leaves not serviceable. Binoculars in excellent condition.
- b. Flashlights - out of ten flashlights, only three showed any form of  
rusting and corrosion. The three affected with minor cleaning and  
removal of rusted parts can be put into usable condition.
- c. Flashlight batteries - all twenty batteries were in excellent condi-  
tion. Original wrappings were dry and no corrosion of terminal points  
found. Batteries worked in flashlights.

Four Bomb Grenades (MP)

Some boxes under the tar paper wrapping were wet. Inside cardboard boxes were found on the fiber containers. Some boxes were wet and deteriorated and crumbled to the touch. Grenades showed no signs of rust due to the rust resistant type of light metal which the body of the grenade is made of. It appeared that all grenades would be in good order, although some were dented. The casings of some of the grenades were found to be wet.

One Box of Rifles

The box consisted of tar paper outer wrapping, two wooden boxes sealed  
seams, individually packed weapons in cardboard containers,  
and barrier antiseptized pressure ceiling. All layers of pro-  
tection were penetrated by water. Weapons were completely rust when  
opened. Various stages of rust were evident. Without complete stripping  
of rust, it could not be determined to what extent the rust affected the  
principal parts of the weapons. It is possible that with field cleaning, the  
weapons could be brought into working order, but they would have to be dis-  
assembled and cleaned to the extent required beyond the tools available to  
be used in the field. Due to the water and dirt in the barrels, it was im-  
possible to determine the extent of pitting. Magazines for the weapons showed  
evidence of rust which would require sanding and scraping prior to use. A total  
of four rifles were found although five individual containers were in the large  
box. The cache folder content listing indicates five weapons were to be in  
the cache.

One Box M1 (1903 Model)

When weapons box was wrapped outside with tar roofing paper. Weapons wrapped with barrier waterproof pressure coating and tin foil and then placed in heavy cardboard containers which appeared to have had some wax on them. Ends of these containers were sealed with tape. All wrappings were completely penetrated with water. When weapons were unwrapped they were completely wet. The extent of rust condition had progressed further than in the box described above. Rust had eaten into part of the weapons which would require complete replacement. Weapons appeared as though no oil or vasoline had ever been rubbed on the weapons at the time of caching for no oil was visible. There was green mold on the wooden stocks. Out of the five weapons, it is estimated that one weapon only with field type of cleaning could be put into operating condition.

One Box .45 Caliber Pistols and Holsters

Inside of box wrapped in same manner with tar paper. Wooden box was wet and some water had entered the box. Pistols and holsters were wrapped in individual containers. Pistols were additionally wrapped in tin foil first and then appeared to be dipped in "Seal-Peel". All weapons and holsters were in perfect condition. Ten pistols and holsters were packed.

One Box Blasting Caps and Prime Cord

One hundred electric blasting caps and three one-hundred foot rolls of prime cord were packed into one box. Water had penetrated the box up to the cardboard packing. No moisture had gotten beyond the waxed wrappings and both the blasting caps and the prime cord were dry and appeared to be in excellent condition. Caps were No. 8 commercial Dupont Company with a tetrazyl charge.

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Five Boxes of .45 Caliber Automatic Guns and Ammunition

Five boxes wrapped in roofing tar paper. Water had penetrated into the boxes and through the tin foil wrapping and barrier waterproof pressure. In the five weapons wrapped, five were in good condition with only a thin layer of rust spots and five had various stages of rust on them. Moving parts didn't appear to be affected, only the stamped parts. It is estimated that with a minimum of field cleaning, all the weapons and weapons could be put into operating condition.



Ammunition .30 and .45 Caliber

All boxes of ammunition were found to be in good useable condition. All ammunition was vacuum sealed in metal containers and although these were wet, when opened rusty, no penetration was visible into the ammunition proper.